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the phœbe builds more than one nest, in which case her building instinct is apparently not satisfied by the usual exercise, or another may be scamped, as when swallows, house martins, or swifts desert their young in order to start on their migrations. When one instinct has been satisfied, wild birds must obey the next in sequence, which seems to possess them with the force of a resistless passion."

Apart from its interest as literature, the book from a purely scientific point of view, contains much of value with regard to the habits of certain of the species treated. Thus the nighthawk is found to feed its young, in one case at least, upon fireflies; the cleaning of the nest and removal of excreta is a duty regularly performed by the small birds studied; the parents do not attempt to feed each young bird in turn impartially, but often thrust food into a nestling's throat and withdraw it to try a second or a third young one until a bird with the "proper reaction time," *i. e.*, whose swallowing reflex is stimulated, is found. Brooding, or shielding the young from the heat, is part of the parents' duty on hot days, and it would be of interest to determine if this act is confined to birds that build open nests. Domed nests might be expected to dispense with the necessity for shielding the young from the sun's heat and possibly this may explain their origin.

The book itself is well printed and profusely illustrated. The style is popular but the author has used much judgment in his treatment of a field which "in the direction of both observation and experiment is of boundless extent, while on the side of inference it is full of pitfalls." The remarkable photographs by which the book is illustrated, add largely to its interest and value.

G. M. A.

Trouessart's *Catalogus Mammalium*, Supplement, Fasc. 4.¹—

The concluding part of this work, the first three fascicles of which have already been noticed in these columns (*Amer. Nat.*, vol. 39, pp. 603-605), lists the known living and fossil Cetacea, Edentata, Marsupialia, Allotheria, and Monotremata, and brings the total of known mammalian species up to 9381, an increase of 2157 over the number listed in the *Catalogus* of 1897-99. Among the Cetacea the great need for revisionary work is apparent and many of the species will doubtless be found to be merely nominal when more material can be

¹Trouessart, E. L. *Catalogus Mammalium tam Viventium quam Fossilium. Quinquennale Supplementum (1899-1904)*. Fasc. 4. Berlin, R. Friedländer & Sohn, 1905. 8vo, pp. i-vii, 753-929. 8 Marks.

gathered and studied. Forster's name, *ampullatus*, revived by Rhoads (*Science*, N. S., vol. 15, p. 756, 1902) appears to have escaped the compiler, and seems applicable in place of *rostratus* for Hyperoödon. Four new generic names are proposed, to take the place of others that are preoccupied. Sphenodontherium for Sphenodon, Heterodontherium for Heterodon, and Propareutatus for Pareutatus among the Edentata, and Odontocyrtus for Kurtodon among the Marsupialia. The compiler also deems it necessary to amend the name Tatu to Tatus. The index includes those specific names only that have figured in works published since the previous catalogue.

G. M. A.

BOTANY.

Britton's Manual.¹—In form, the recently issued second edition of this now well known work conforms closely to the first edition published in 1901. Analytical keys to the families, prepared by Wiegand, have been added to the prefatory matter, and a key to the genera of Compositæ, also prepared by him, has been placed at the end of the treatment of that family. The lamentable absence of necessary synonymy from the first edition has been rectified to a considerable extent; and in addition to such corrections as were possible in the original text, the appendix has been amplified by the incorporation of descriptions of over 100 species not recognized in the earlier edition, while, *e. g.*, under *Cratægus*, the fact that still others have been published is indicated.

W. T.

A New North American Flora.²—Since the appearance some years ago of the latest fascicle of the *Synoptical Flora* begun by Asa Gray, there has been no evident effort to provide a collective systematic treatment of the plants of the entire United States, though several handbooks covering a part of the country have appeared.

The fascicle now under review, though pertaining to a volume far

¹Britton, N. L. *Manual of the Flora of the Northern States and Canada*. New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1905. 8vo, 2 ed., revised and enlarged, xxiv + 1112 pp.

²*North America Flora*, vol. 22, part 1.—Published by the New York Botanical Garden, May 22, 1905. Large 8vo, 80 pp. \$1.50.